February 1, 2026

So Diva!

THE Girly Media Magazine

Photo From Teagan Croft's Instagram

Live Action Tangled Drama?

Who got cast? Who do people think should've been casted instead?

Photo by Mattel

K-pop Demon Hunter Dolls?

Photo by Rainbow SPA

Winx Club Reboot?

So Diva!

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Top DIVALICIOUS CREATORS Of The Month

1 CuteGamesClub

CuteGamesClub is a youtube creator who has decided to release a game every month! Go support her goal on her Patreon @CuteGamesClub

2 Omelu

"Faerie High" is a passion project by Omelu about a Monster High and Ever After High esq world, but instead of it being about monster or fairytales it's about Fairies!

3 Alice Levy

Skin Flick is a raunchy film with gorgeous animation that deserves more love!

4 Orange Blossom Studios

"Wheels and Roses" is a pilot created by Orange Blossom Studios, it has a unique concept and great music it definitely deserves more attention!

Photo By Rainbow SPA

Written by Fatma, Edited and Designed by Maryam

Winx Club Reboot

"The Winx Club-The Magic Is Back" is a new CGI animated fantasy series

Created by Iginio Straffi as a reboot of the original Winx Club franchise. Produced by Rainbow S.p.A. alongside Rainbow CGI, Hampa Animation Studio, and Alkid-Xiamen Cultural Service Co., the series reintroduces the story with a new animation style and redesigned characters. The first 13 episodes premiered on October 2, 2025, on Netflix (and September 8, 2025, in the UK on BBC iPlayer and CBBC), with the remaining 13 episodes scheduled for release in spring 2026. Marketed as a "modern fantasy saga," the reboot was intended to blend the original show with newer themes and to introduce a new generation to their own version of the Winx.

While the premise mirrors the classic storyline, the execution immediately divided fans. Criticism largely focused on the show's visual overhaul and production quality. Many viewers were disappointed by the shift to stiff, AI-influenced 3D animation, describing the CGI as choppy, inconsistent, and lacking the high-fashion and distinctive silhouettes that once defined the Winx Club. Allegations of generative AI use in concept art, promotional materials, and even writing fueled backlash, With fans pointing to "uncanny" character designs and robotic dialogue as evidence of a rushed, impersonal production.
Narrative and character changes also drew heavy criticism. The opening episode was called out for "speedrunning" major story points, offering little time for world-building or emotional development. Fans objected to boring characterizations that reduced the Winx to stereotypes, such as reducing Aisha to a "gym rat", the introduction of a new male lead, Damien, who took focus away from the Winx, and significant lore revisions, such as altering Bloom's backstory by adding a twin brother and removing important characters such as Helia from the original canon. Many also criticized the fashion and character designs, arguing that they stripped away the identity that made Winx Club iconic.

Although some defenders attributed the reboot's shortcomings to limited budget, time constraints, and poor coordination rather than solely to AI, the overall response was overwhelmingly negative. For many longtime fans, "The Magic Is Back" felt less like a thoughtful reimagining and more like a rushed, corporate-driven cash grab. An iconic show that failed to honor the charm, style, and emotional depth of the original series.

Photo By Ed Wiggery

Southern Fried Rice Dilemma

"Southern Fried Rice" is an American comedy drama Web series created by Nakia Stephens, produced by Keke Palmer, and starring Paige Yang. The series premiered on October 22, 2025, on the KeyTV Network's official YouTube channel. Set at an HBCU, the show follows a non-Black lead character as she navigates college life, identity, and culture within a predominantly Black institution which is an unconventional premise that quickly sparked intense online debate.

The major criticism viewers had was about the decision to place a non-Black protagonist in a story set in an HBCU, institutions historically created to serve Black students during segregation. This is history that time can't erase, and many viewers felt the concept was tone-deaf and a missed opportunity to center authentic Black narratives. The series was also accused of cultural appropriation and reinforcing stereotypes, with critics pointing to moments where the lead character adopts Black aesthetics and mannerisms that Black women are often criticized for, making the portrayal feel more performative rather than reflective or informative.

Additional backlash arose over issues of cultural representation. Viewers noted that the title Southern Fried Rice was misleading, as the character is Korean while fried rice originates from Chinese cuisine, and the actress playing the lead was reported to be Hmong rather than Korean. The timing of the show's release also intensified criticism, arriving shortly after the Supreme Court decision on affirmative action, a case that placed Asian American students at the center of a contentious national conversation. Furthermore, when past social media posts from creator Nakia Stephens resurfaced, some accused Nakia of fetishistic or problematic views toward Asian communities.

Photo From Southern Fried Rice

Photo From Wizards Beyond Wavery Place

Knights of Guinivere

"Knights of Guinevere" is a psychological sci-fi thriller that premiered with a pilot episode on September 19, 2025. Set on Park Planet, a massive amusement park, the series follows friends Andi and Frankie after they discover Guinivere, the park's damaged android mascot. When they secretly enter the park's hidden laboratories to repair her, they unknowingly set off a chain of events that reveals dark secrets lurking beneath the park's cheerful surface.

Photo From I Love LA

Wizards Beyond Waverly Place Kills off Alex Russo

"Wizards Beyond Waverly Place" is a sequel series to Wizards of Waverly Place, that follows Justin Russo as he chooses to embrace mortality in order to live a normal life with his family. His decision is challenged when his sister Alex (played by Selena Gomez) introduces him to Billie, a young wizard-in-training in need of Justin's guidance, pulling him back into the magical world he left behind. The series' dramatic Season 2 finale released on October 17, 2025, shocked fans when Alex seemingly sacrificed herself by jumping into a portal to seal a dangerous rift and save her family, including Billie, disappearing alongside the villain Morsus. Though her fate is left a mystery, Alex's promise to return (and hints from the cast) suggest her story is far from over.

Photo By Glitch Prod

I Love LA

"I Love LA" is a comedy series that was released on November 2, 2025, follows Maia Simsbury, a struggling talent agent who has spent the past 2 years without a single client at an agency. Her push for a promotion is disrupted when her ex-best friend, influencer Taulluah Stiel, reenters her life. As career ambition takes over, Maia struggles with a codependent friend group, changing relationships, and the pressure of proving her worth.

Euphoria Season 3 Confirmed

"Euphoria" is a hit drama series that has announced a new season set to release in April 2026. The show centers on Rue, a recovering addict, and a group of students as they navigate love, identity, trauma, and friendship amid drugs, sex, social media, and mental health struggles. Season 3 will feature a five-year time jump, following the characters as young adults adjusting to life beyond high school.

Photo From Euphoria Trailer

Photo From Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Buffy the Vampire Slayer Reboot

"Buffy the Vampire Slayer: New Sunnydale" is an upcoming Buffy the Vampire Slayer reboot set to premiere in 2026. The series revisits the Buffyverse 25 years later, exploring how the world has changed since the original series while introducing a new generation of characters facing the ongoing battle against vampires and other dark forces.

All's Fair

"All's Fair" is a legal drama series created by Ryan Murphy which stars Kim Kardashian as Allura Grant, a successful divorce lawyer and the owner of an all-female law firm. Released on November 4, 2025, public perception has been extremely negative according to Rotten Tomatoes and general discourse online.

Photo From The Summer I Turned Pretty Finale

Miraculous World

"Miraculous World" is a new Miraculous spin-off series with an anime-esque artstyle. Set in Tokyo, Marinette & Kagami join forces with local heroes to form the Tokyo Stellar Force to fight giant kaiju monsters and cosmic threats. Premiered on November 29, 2025 on Disney+, the full spin-off series is planned to release on February 27, 2026.

Photo From All's Fair

The Summer I Turned Pretty Finale

"The Summer I turned Pretty" is a hit show that was released in 2022 based on the book series by jenny han. The show has recently ended on September 17, 2025, however a movie finale is in the works.

Photo By GC Images

Written by Fatma, Edited and Designed by Maryam

The Devil Wears Prada 2

"The Devil Wears Prada 2" is an upcoming sequel to the hit The Devil Wears Prada

And is planned to release on May 1, 2026. This sequel centers on Miranda Priestly played by Meryl Streep as she navigates the decline of printed media which in turn forces her to rely on Andy Sachs, played by Anne Hathaway. In this film, they have to navigate digital distro and power dynamics as they compete with her former assistant, Emily Charlton, who is now a luxury executive for advertising.

Wicked: For Good

"Wicked: For Good" is the second and final installment of Universal Pictures' two-part film adaptation of the hit Broadway musical Wicked. Directed by Jon M. Chu, the film stars Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba and Ariana Grande as Glinda. Picking up where Wicked: Part One ends, the sequel focuses on the emotional and political fallout of Elphaba's rise as the Wicked Witch and the fractured friendship between the two leads. Featuring iconic songs like "No Good Deed" and "For Good," the film was released in November 2025.

Zombies 4

"Zombies 4: Dawn of the Vampires" is the fourth film installment of Disney's Zombies franchise released on July 10, 2025. Set during the summer after their first year of college, the film follows Zed and Addison as they embark on a road trip that leads them into the rival supernatural worlds of Sunnyside and Shadyside. There, they encounter two new monster groups and uncover an ancient conflict, expanding the Zombies universe with new characters and higher stakes than ever before.

Moana Live Action

"Moana" is an upcoming live-action adaptation of Disney's 2016 animated film of the same name. Set to release on July 10, 2026, the film stars Catherine Laga'aia as Moana alongside Dwayne Johnson reprising his role as Maui. Directed by Thomas Kail (known for Hamilton), the story continues Moana's journey beyond her island as she seeks to restore the heart of Te Fiti, save her people, and confront an ancient curse, with new music and more focus on Pacific Islander culture.

Photo From Wicked For Good

Photo From Zombies 4

Photo From Moana Live Action Trailer

Photo By Getty Images

Photo From Materialist

Photo From Pop Mart

Sabrina Carpenter Alice in Wonderland

"Alice in Wonderland" is an upcoming movie musical adaptation for Universal Pictures starring and produced by Sabrina Carpenter. Written and directed by Lorene Scafaria (known for Hustlers), the film is said to promise a fresh, contemporary reimagining of the classic Lewis Carroll story. With no official release date yet, the project is currently aimed for 2027 or later and marks Carpenter's first major studio film role and her return to acting following her recent success in music.

Materialist

Released on June 13, 2025, "Materialists" is a romantic drama written and directed by Celine Song. This film follows a young and ambitious New York City matchmaker (Dakota Johnson) who finds herself caught in a love triangle between the seemingly perfect and wealthy financier (Pedro Pascal) who seems to be a match and her imperfect ex-boyfriend (Chris Evans).

Labubu Movie

"Labubu" is an upcoming film in early development at Sony Pictures, based on the popular collectible monster toys by Kasing Lung and Pop Mart. Paul King (known for directing Paddington and Wonka) is reportedly said to direct and produce. With no release date, cast, or confirmed format yet, the project remains in very early stages and could be live-action, animated, or a hybrid.

Photo By MonsterVerze Team

Written by Fatma, Edited and Designed by Maryam, Edited by Makayla

MonsterVerze Release

"MonsterVerze" is a community created Roblox game by PlayGirldom

That blends spooky fashion, avatar customization, and supernatural exploration, first appearing in early development in January 2025 and building major hype with a beta launch on October 31, 2025 (Halloween). However, its rollout was rocky: the game faced multiple delays and Roblox moderation takedowns, including removals during pre-launch countdowns and again shortly after release, reportedly over alleged NSFW content that was never actually present.

These repeated bans sparked widespread frustration and debate about Roblox's moderation system, alongside additional community criticism over bugs, unfinished features, communication issues, and monetization, However I believe things will improve for the MV team and fans in the future!

By Maryam

Winx: The Fairy Guardian

Winx – The Fairy Guardian is a story-driven school roleplay game coming to Roblox in mid December, officially announced by Rainbow in December 2025. Players enroll as a fairy student and can choose to play as Bloom or create a custom original character. The game features character customization with hundreds of outfit options, class-based progression to earn experience and butterflies, and combat against creatures through boss battles. As players level up, they can unlock different chapters and additional Winx characters including Stella, Flora, Musa, Tecna, and Aisha.

Photo From Winx The Fairy Guardian

Photo From ChatDOLL

ChatDOLL Release - By Maryam

"chatDOLL" is a Roblox-based social and fashion experience centered on avatar customization, virtual self-expression, and community interaction. Drawing inspiration from early 2000s online dress-up and social platforms (i.e IMVU, and the modern day EverSkies) the game allows players to design detailed outfits, collect aesthetic items such as pets, and socialize in curated chat spaces. Currently available in an early or demo state, chatDOLL focuses primarily on free exploration and social play, with additional features and expanded gameplay planned for future updates.

Free Games in 2026 by CuteGamesClub - By Makayla

Terry, the creator of CuteGamesClub, has committed to releasing 12 free games throughout 2026. Each month will host a unique theme, and Terry clarifies that, yes, most of these games will be girly, or rather, "yassified," as she puts it. Her first upcoming project is titled Patronichi, and you can learn more about it on her YouTube channel, Patreon, or Kofi (@cutegamesclub)

Photo From CuteGamesClub YouTube Channel

Photo From DDLC

Doki Doki Literature Club (DDLC) Mobile

"Doki Doki Literature Club Mobile" is the mobile release of the cult-classic visual novel created by Team Salvato, bringing the game to iOS and Android on December 11, 2025. Originally released as a PC game in 2017, DDLC gained massive popularity for presenting itself as a lighthearted dating sim before subverting expectations with psychological horror elements. The mobile version allows a new audience to experience the full story on handheld devices while surpassing over a million downloads in just one week. The mobile edition still includes the game's signature narrative while adding optional in-app purchase content (DDLC Plus DLC) featuring six new side stories, over 100 unlockable images, and a complete soundtrack with built-in music player.

(Mostly) Free Update for Animal Crossing New Horizons (ACNH) - By Makayla

ACNH is getting a free content update on January 15, 2026. This comes 5 years after the last free update, which was originally stated to be the last update for the game. Most notably, a hotel resort is being added to the game for free for all players, which will be run by Kap'n's family. The resort will effectively act as a free version of Happy Home Paradise, it seems, with players gaining the ability to decorate hotel rooms.

Photo From ACNH

Photo From Bye Sweet Carole

Bye Sweet Carole

Bye Sweet Carole is a hand-drawn horror adventure game inspired by classic animated films, developed by Little Sewing Machine and published by Meangrip Studios. Released on October 9, 2025, for PC, Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4/5, and Xbox, the game gained attention for its striking art style and dark reinterpretation of fairytale aesthetics. While widely praised visually, it lacks storytelling and immersion according to critics. Despite this, anticipation remains high due to its unique blend of animation and psychological horror storytelling.

Photo From Bratz Rhythm and Style

New Bratz Game

A new Bratz video game, Bratz: Rhythm and Style, was released on September 12, 2025 for PC, Xbox, PlayStation, and Nintendo Switch. The game aims to modernize the franchise for a new generation while appealing to longtime fans. However, the reveal was met with mixed reactions (mostly negative), as players criticized aspects of the character designs, gameplay depth, storyline, and gameplay bugs/glitches. Drama and frustration intensified online when comparisons were drawn to previous Bratz titles and competing fashion games, with fans accusing the developers of lacking authenticity. Despite the backlash, the game generated significant attention and discussion across social media.

Hello Kitty Island Adventure REVIEW (HKIA) - By Makayla

HKIA was released on PC in July 2025. After many months spent playing in an on/off fashion, I'm sad to say that... I'm bored. The game environment is gorgeous and is the primary reason why I spent 30 hours playing during the first week I bought the game. But, while the ultra-cute and expansive world of HKIA is fun to traverse, explore, and discover when you first start the game, it quickly becomes cumbersome because it takes so long to travel across the world.

An increasingly common problem (for the gamer) is that there are so many different entities fighting for our attention, and this has led to a contemporary problem where games tend to last "forever" or have immense replayability. This is most probably because brands want to remain top of mind in the heads of consumers - this is so that we're more likely to spend money on DLC (I'm looking at you, Wheatflour Wonderland), in-game purchases, or physical merch that references the IP in question.

Unfortunately, HKIA has fallen victim to this phenomenon, and it's ruined the gameplay experience for me. I couldn't feel the true excitement when completing the first major Big Challenges storyline because I realized I hadn't actually "finished" anything substantial and was left confused about what I was supposed to do next. HKIA truly is the definition of a long game, and not one that casual players may have the time for. There is little payoff unless you're able to sink some serious hours into the game for resource collecting, crafting, fetch quests, and gifting every day to build friendships with the NPCs living on the island. Building friendship with NPCs on the island is important because it directly links to major quest/storyline unlocks, but grinding to befriend NPCs in an inorganic way doesn't feel very fun.

A lot of players seem to fall off (myself included) when trying to befriend Wish Me Mell's (WMM). She is by far the hardest character to befriend, and this is intentional by developers to block players from accessing what is supposed to be end-game content far too early (flower breeding). I found this very demotivating during my playtime because I love the aesthetics of Merry Meadow and wanted to spend most of my time there.
TLDR: Overall, HKIA is an ultra-cute look into the world of Sanrio, and it is an enjoyable way to pass the time if game progress isn't your primary concern. If you love Sanrio, or generally "cute" things, and want a game to chip away at over a long period of time, then you will probably enjoy it. It is worth noting that this was originally a mobile game, so that might explain why the UI/animations for receiving items and crafting are a little OTT at times.

Photo From Hello Kitty Island Adventure

Photo By Mattel

Written by Fatma, Edited and Designed by Maryam, Edited by Makayla

K-pop Demon Hunters Dolls

The KPop Demon Hunters dolls are an upcoming collector focused line

Line from Mattel, released under the Mattel Creations label in collaboration with the K-Pop Demon Hunters franchise. Following the record-breaking success of the series in summer 2025, the doll-line brings fan-favorite characters Rumi, Mira, and Zoey into doll form, based on the "This is What it Sounds Like" performance. The first official looks garnered mixed reviews among doll collectors and pop-culture fans alike. Some fans say the dolls were rushed and not detailed enough for the price. Pre-orders opened on November 12, 2025, with more dolls scheduled for release in 2026.

New Monster High G3

Monster High Generation 3 (G3) is Mattel's latest reboot of the franchise, featuring updated character designs, inclusive storytelling, and play-focused fashion dolls. In Fall 2025, the lineup expanded with seasonal and themed releases, including the Howliday Skelita Calaveras doll on September 2, 2025, followed by the House of Wolf Clawdeen Wolf on September 26. In October 2025 Mattel introduced the rebranded Skulltimate Secrets: Gore-geous Oasis wave, spotlighting Draculaura, Lagoona Blue, and Jinafire Long with new suitcase-style lockers and tropical-inspired designs. In November 2025 Mattel released a new line: the Buried Secrets: Courtside Fang-Out line, featuring Clawdeen, Frankie, Ghoulia, and Toralei, as well as the Fang Vote Catty Noir exclusive. In early 2026, Mattel's focus shifted toward core refreshes and new concepts in January 2026. Faboolous Friends: Wave 3 releases for the main ghouls and the debut of the Self-Scare Secrets line with Abbey, Draculaura, and Venus.

Photo By Mattel

Sanrio Changes Mocha's Name to Lovelymocha - By Makayla

Sanrio has seemingly revealed Mocha's "government name" as Lovelymocha. The official Sanrio socials posted an adorable animation featuring Cinnamaroll and, now, Lovelymocha having a cozy tea time. Fans speculate that Mocha may have received a name change because Sanrio wants to emphasize her as a love interest for Cinnamaroll. It's worth noting that Build-A-Bear is currently marketing a Sanrio line, with one of the featured plushies being named Mocha, not Lovelymocha. It's possible that Sanrio would make this change for further licensing and copyright protections. It's well-known that "generic" words cannot be trademarked, so it's unlikely that they would have ever been able to trademark the name Mocha. If nothing else at all, we can probably assume that this means more Lovelymocha merch. Sanrio has not made any statement about the name change at the time of writing this.

Photo By Sanrio

Bratziez

Bratziez is a newly introduced doll line from MGA Entertainment, officially revealed on November 26, 2025. Seemingly inspired by Labubus, the Bratziez is a collectable blind box plush. With 6 different Bratziez, consumers are able to clip it on any accessories. This was an extremely unique Bratz release due to Bratz directly collabing with an independent doll creator (August Dahl) who coined the concept online and went viral for it. Fan reactions were mixed, with some collectors debating whether the dolls cater more towards younger audiences than classic Bratz releases.

Photo By MGA & August Dahl

Photo By MGA

Pidgin Doll

Pidgin Doll is an art doll project created by artist Joshua David McKenney, first introduced around 2013. Unlike mass-produced dolls, Pidgin Dolls are released in limited drops through the official website and social media, with a recent collection launching on November 30, 2025 featuring a new fashion series with accessories. Each doll is completely one-of-a-kind, contributing to their high price point, which often reaches around $1,000 or more, positioning them as collectible art pieces rather than traditional toys.

New Rainbow High Dolls

Rainbow High's newest release, the Be Dazzling fashion dolls, are 28 cm figures featuring long hair, colorful dresses, and crystal-clear rainbow strands designed for hair decoration. Officially released on January 1, the Be Dazzling line marks Rainbow High's sixth core doll series and introduces five new characters: Adeline Rose, Vivienne Rouge, Celine Turquoise, Genevieve Bleue, and Noemie Violette. Each doll includes colorful gems and a bedazzler, allowing fans to customize their look. Planned for a Spring 2026 rollout at a retail price of $27.99 USD, reception has been mixed, with some fans praising the refreshed aesthetic while others prefer the more fabric-detailed designs of earlier Rainbow High lines.

Photo By Pidgin Doll

Photo By Rachel Renee Russell

Written by Fatma, Edited and Designed by Maryam

Dork Diaries

Colored Book Controversy

"Dork Diaries" is a popular preteen series by author Rachel Renée Russel

And her daughter and illustrator Nikki Russel. Released on November 18, 2025, "Dork Diaries: Tales From a Not-So-Fabulous Life" is the first book in Rachel Renée Russell's bestselling series but redesigned and in full color. The book follows middle schooler Nikki Maxwell (inspired by Nikki Russel) and her life through diary entries and doodles as she navigates a new school, mean girl MacKenzie, her crush Brandon, and new friends Chloe and Zoey.

The original version was released in 2009 but according to Russel, the reason Dork Diaries books are released in full color now is to attract a new, modern middle-grade audience. Fans' reaction to this rebrand was overwhelmingly negative. The biggest reason for this was the change in art style. Many felt as though the older art style had more charm and the rebrand was unnecessary. Furthermore, the art style felt more AI and not like a kid's diary.
"Now more than ever, children need a colorful world where stories can grow, imagination can bloom and they can dream of a bright and happy future," Russell has stated.

Junie B Jones Art Style Change Controversy

"Junie B. Jones" is a children's book series originally written by Barbara Park, first published in 1992. In 2025, the series was reintroduced in a new graphic novel format, adapted by Colleen AF Venable and illustrated by Honie Beam. The series is a retelling of the original story about Junie B.'s with the first about a chaotic first day of kindergarten. The rebrand was intended to modernize the series and appeal to a new generation of readers, particularly children who may feel intimidated by traditional chapter books.

However, much of the backlash centered on the drastic change in art style. Many readers felt the original illustrations were deeply tied to the heart and identity of the books, arguing that the new visuals lacked the charm and personality that defined Junie B. Others criticized the simplified writing and graphic novel format, claiming the adaptation was "dumbed down" and others had concerns about lowered educational standards, with some citing the impact of policies like "No Child Left Behind" on literacy expectations.

Despite the controversy, the adaptation has opened a larger conversation about preserving the spirit of classic children's literature while finding new ways to make stories approachable for modern audiences. While some fans embrace the rebrand as a tool for literacy and engagement, others remain firmly attached to the original look and tone, arguing that, no matter the medium, "that isn't the Junie B. they grew up with."

Photos From Junie B Jones Graphic Novel Series

Onyx Storm (The Empyrean, #3)

"Onyx Storm" is a high-fantasy romance novel by Rebecca Yarros and the third entry in The Empyrean series. Released on January 21, 2025, it became the most read and most added book of 2025 on Goodreads, topping charts with millions of readers adding it to their shelves and breaking sales records as one of the fastest-selling adult novels in decades.

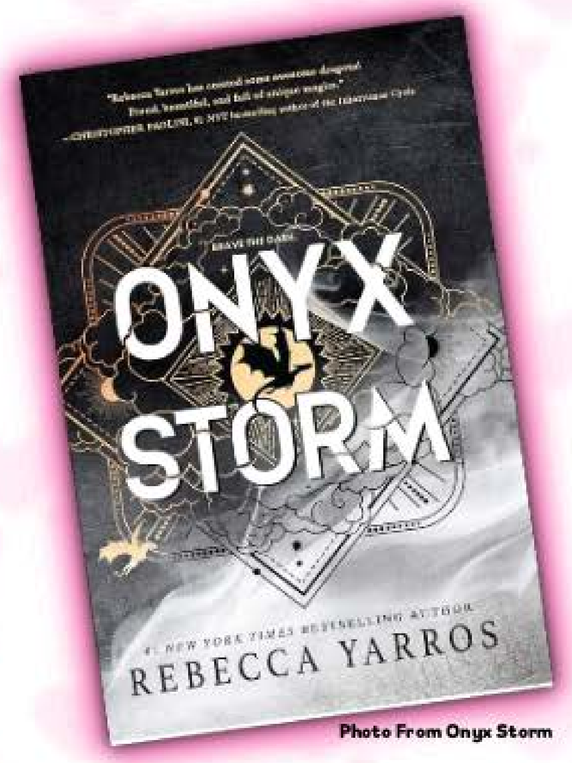


Photo From Onyx Storm

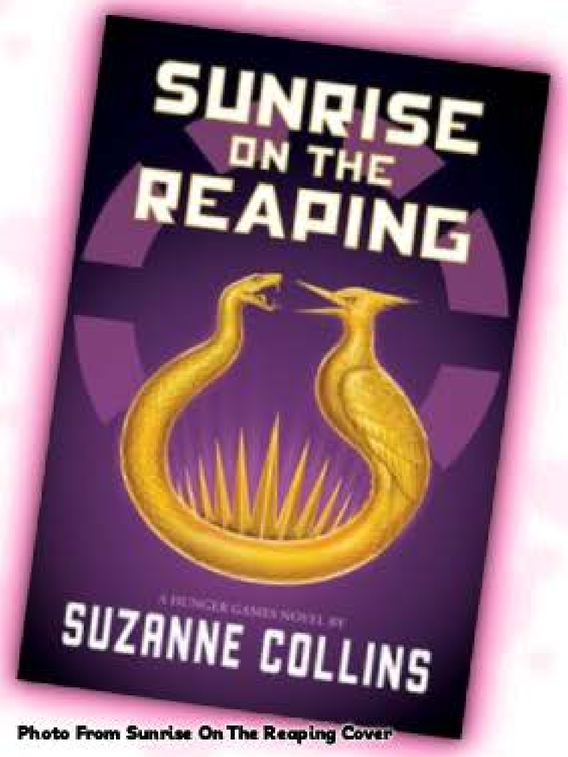


Photo From Sunrise On The Reaping Cover

Sunrise on the Reaping

"Sunrise on the Reaping" by Suzanne Collins is a prequel to The Hunger Games universe, following a young Haymitch Abernathy's journey in the 50th Games. Released on March 18, 2025, it quickly rose to widespread popularity, becoming one of the most added books of the year and a #1 New York Times bestseller.

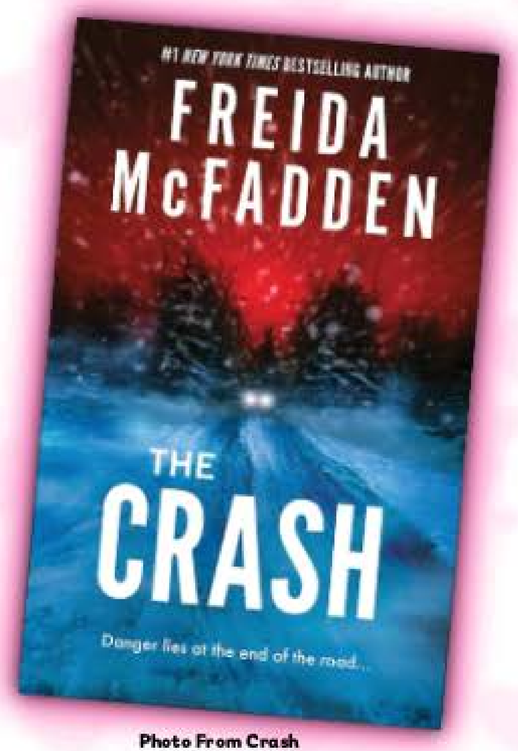


Photo From Crash

The Crash

"The Crash" by Freida McFadden is a psychological thriller about survival and trauma following a woman stranded during a blizzard. Published on January 28, 2025, it drew significant reader attention, landing on many Goodreads member shelves and appearing in year-end popularity lists.

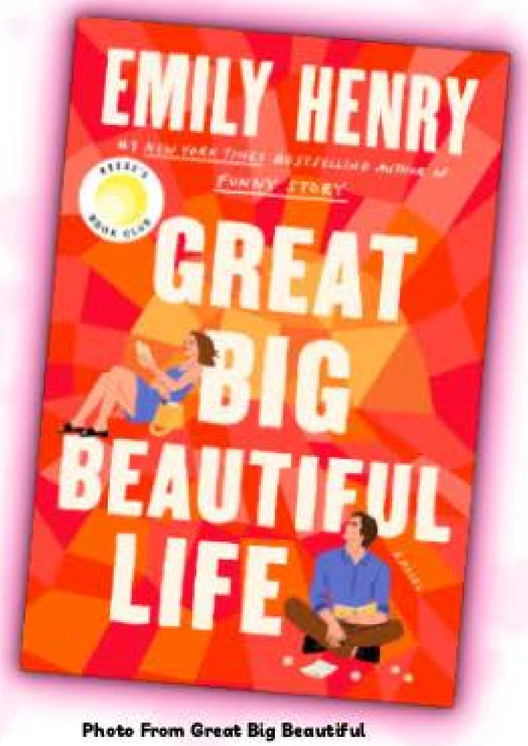


Photo From Great Big Beautiful

Great Big Beautiful Life

"Great Big Beautiful Life" by Emily Henry blends contemporary romance with newsroom drama, focusing on two journalists chasing a big story and a slow-burn love. Published on April 22, 2025, it became one of Goodreads' most added books of 2025 and was also a Reese's Book Club pick.

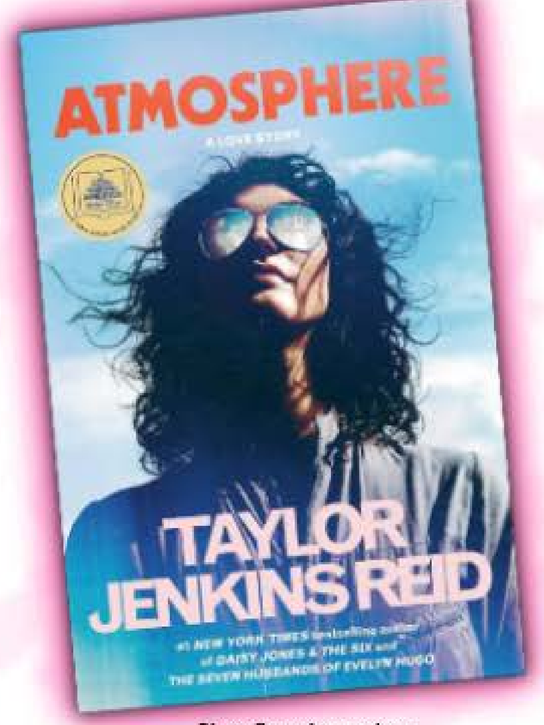

ATMOSPHERE
A LOVE STORY
TAYLOR JENKINS REID
#1 NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author of DAISY JONES & THE SIX and THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO

Photo From Atmosphere

Atmosphere

"Atmosphere" by Taylor Jenkins Reid, released on June 3, 2025, is about a NASA astronaut and her hidden romance in the Space Shuttle. With a strong readership that placed it among the year's most popular books, it was also featured as a summer pick and a New York Times bestseller.

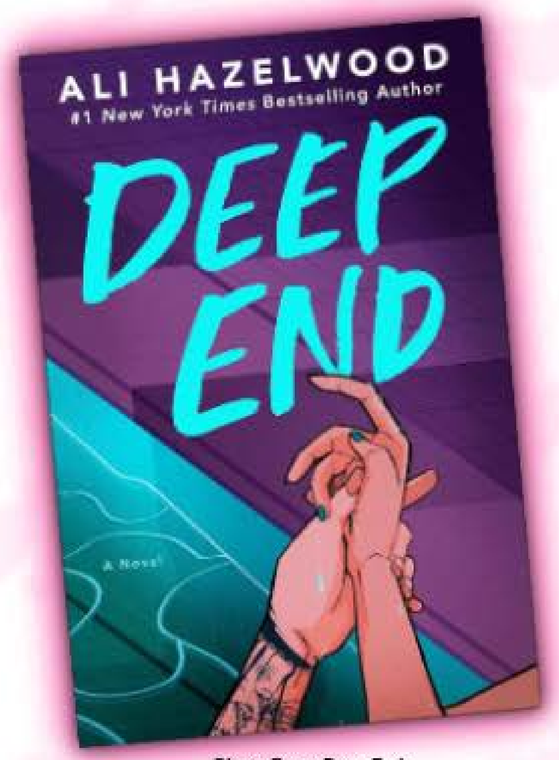


Photo From Deep End

Deep End

"Deep End" by Ali Hazelwood is a sports romance about a diver and a swimmer navigating love and healing. Released on February 4, 2025, it became a widely-added title on Goodreads and appeared on bestseller charts.

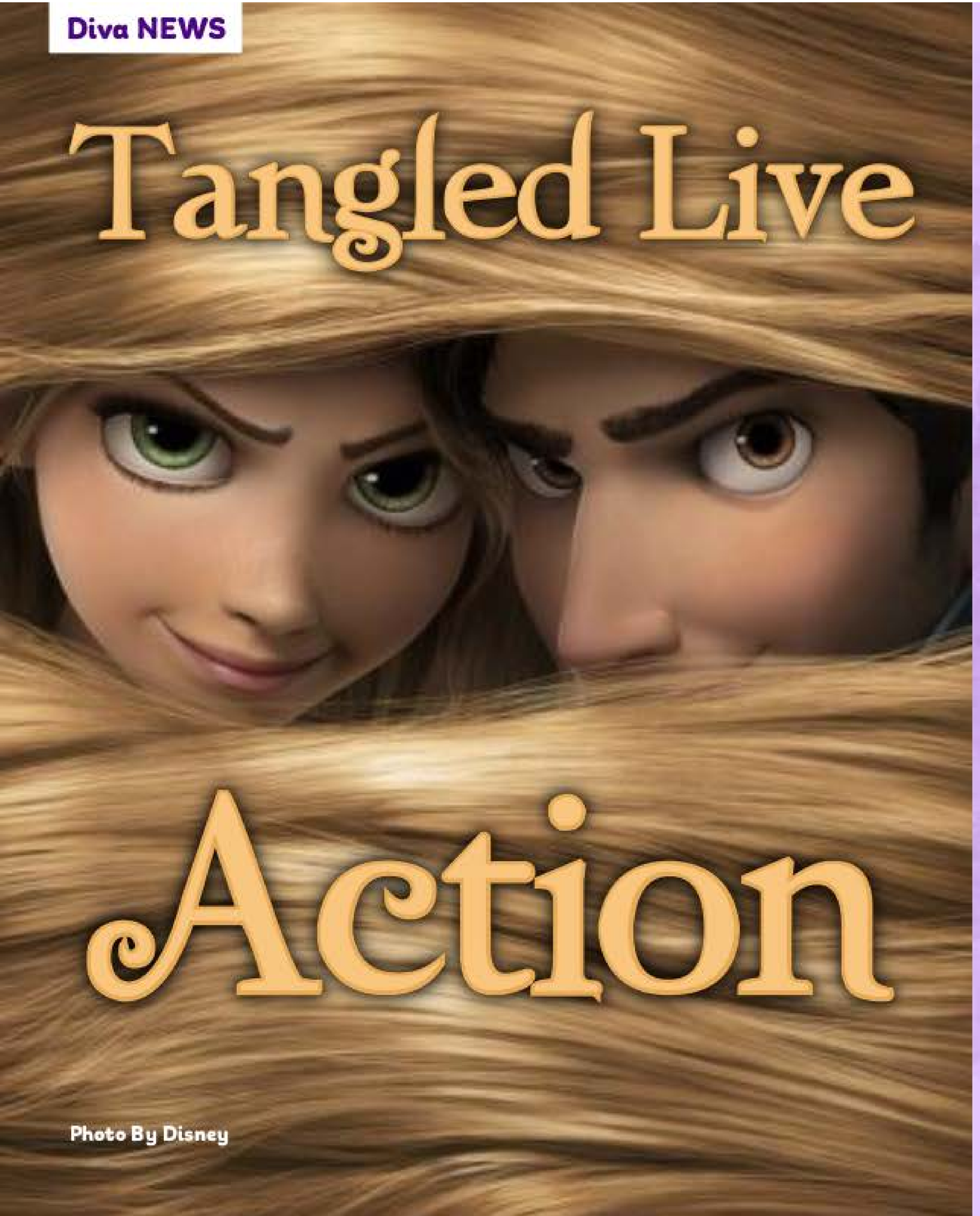


Photo By Disney

Written & Designed By Maryam, Edited By Makayla, Edited By Fatma

The Announcement

By Makayla

The Tangled live-action film was first announced and green lit in mid 2025

And with casting for the two leads recently confirmed during January 2026, the chatter around this movie is LOUD. From the popularity of "fan casts" like Avantika and Milo to Matreyi Ramakrishnan stating serious interest in the role. However, the abysmal performance of the "Snow White" live-action caused Tangled to be delayed. This is the primary reason why we know so little about production today. The tension around the casting of Tangled is the biggest news to come out so far.

The Casting Fiasco

Now we can talk about the biggest news so far: the casting drama! Who auditioned? Who got rejected? And most importantly, who ACTUALLY got cast? And why does the casting drama feel like a modern-day Gone with the Wind situation?

Avantika Vandanapu

Status: Fancasted

Now, before any actual official casting, before the movie was even announced, really, Avantika Vandanapu was featured in a popular fancast with Milo Manheim. However, many believed this fancast was real, and Avantika was facing a lot of online hate and racist comments from those who believed Rapunzel should only be cast by a white woman.

If you want my opinion, Rapunzel being a different race is not a problem. It's a fairytale. I'm sure every culture has their own version of Rapunzel anyway. I understand just wanting to see the animated versions come to life, but it's not like Disney could never do something like that in the future. Also, regardless of race, I believe the person who plays Rapunzel needs to have soft, young features and large doe eyes, and they have to look convincingly innocent, and Avantika definitely checks those boxes! Even though this is a fancast, it's a fancast that I approve of! It's a shame Avantika had to experience all that extreme hatred for a random FAN CAST.

Matreyi Ramakrishnan

Status: Fancasted

On September 11th, 2022, Maitreyi Ramakrishnan tweeted, "I've made it like really clear that like Rapunzel IS my dream role... right? Like we know this... right????" She's also told CBS, "I think Rapunzel should be a South Asian girl. Because hear me out, no one knows what it feels like to be trapped in your room, not able to go out because your mother is telling you no, without giving you an actual proper reason like brown girls do. It's true. That would be like a dream role for me."

These comments were incredibly divisive, as many of her fans supported the idea, but the same thing as with Avantika happened a lot of racist people unfortunately targeted and harassed the actor over these lighthearted, inoffensive statements.

Now, personally, I could see her being a Rapunzel, but not a Disney Rapunzel because she gives me more Ariel vibes.

JoJo Siwa

Status: Rejected Audition

JoJo Siwa's Rapunzel audition, which was apparently shared by her mother.

Many people did not believe that JoJo suited the part of Rapunzel at all, due to her energy and demeanor being so different from the character.

Personally, I also can't see her as a Rapunzel character. She just doesn't really have the vibe of Rapunzel in my opinion, and the persona she portrayed in the tape was just way too different from the persona the character has in the Disney film. I can see why Disney may have felt she was not suited for the role.

I also think that due to her fame audiences may have a hard time suspending disbelief.

Lola Tung

Status: Dropped Out

Lola Tung of "The Summer I Turned Pretty" fame was allegedly considered for the role but was unable to screen test due to scheduling conflicts with "The Summer I Turned Pretty."

Many fans felt the star could have successfully portrayed the famous Disney character, as she has shown that she can sing and has a soft look to her that Rapunzel has.

However, some are glad she didn't get the role because, as we know, actresses who portray race-swapped versions of Disney princesses get swarmed with insane levels of hate and bigotry. I mean, just look at what happened to Halle Bailey and Rachel Zegler.

Personally, I can see her playing the role. She has those soft, youthful features that suit the character well, and she would look really great in the scene where Rapunzel gets her hair cut short.

Gigi Hadid

Status: Rejected Audition

Supermodel Gigi Hadid has revealed that she auditioned for the role and even took singing lessons but did not end up winning the part.

I can see why she didn't win the role. Even though she's very conventionally attractive, that's not the only thing that you need to play Rapunzel. You have to have those similar soft features and doe eyes. And while Gigi has the soft features, she is very tall and, in my opinion, could not believably pass for an 18-year-old girl.

Also, you really have to be able to sing, and since we have never heard what came from Gigi's singing, we have no idea if her singing would've suited the part or not. Also, her fame does not make it easy to suspend disbelief.

Maia Reficco

Status: Rejected Audition

Maia Reficco had also auditioned for the part, and honestly, I think if she was styled a certain way, she could have made a believable Rapunzel, but I think there are other actresses in this lineup that suit Rapunzel's essence and features more.

Sabrina Carpenter

Status: Rejected Audition

Sabrina Carpenter was allegedly in talks to play the role, but she was apparently rejected for being "too pretty."

Fans of Sabrina really wanted her to get the part and were disappointed to learn that she had not won the role.

Personally, I find the whole "too pretty" statement to be very strange, because Sabrina and Rapunzel are both very pretty. They just have very different types of beauty, but it doesn't mean one is better than the other. I'm not even sure if the rumor is true. It could have been created by a fan or maybe someone on her team, who knows!

I personally cannot see Sabrina as Rapunzel. Yes, she's beautiful and can sing, those are obvious. But she does not believably pass, in my opinion, as an 18-year-old girl. She has very sharp features and cat eyes, which is the opposite of the doe eyes and soft features that the Rapunzel character is known for. She's also such a huge star right now that it may be hard for audiences to suspend disbelief.

Sadie Sink

Status: Considered

Sadia Sink of "Stranger Things" fame was allegedly heavily considered for the role, and many of her fans wanted her cast as they felt like she was talented enough for the role and was able to sing.

Personally, while she does have a youthful face, doe eyes, and softer features, she doesn't have the vibe of Rapunzel to me, and I can't exactly put my finger on what it is, but I just can't see her as Rapunzel.

McKenna Grace

Status: Considered

Mckenna Grace was allegedly heavily considered for the part and was an extremely popular choice out of everyone on this list, as she has a youthful face and large doe eyes and can believably pass as 18.

There are only maybe two or three (in my opinion, Freya Skye, Avantika, and Emma Myers) actors on this list that I think suit Rapunzel a bit better visually, but Mckenna seemed like the most likely choice out of all of them, so she was the one I personally wanted to win the role. She has everything you need to be Rapunzel to be honest. I can 100% see her as Rapunzel.

Isabel May

Status: Considered

Isabel May was allegedly heavily considered for the part, and some fans really wanted her to get it, and personally, I could possibly see her as Rapunzel as she kinda has the look, but I do think there are other choices on this list that suit the part of Rapunzel better.

Emma Myers

Status: Considered

Emma Myers of "Wednesday" fame was allegedly heavily considered for the part, and many of her fans wanted her to get the role, as she definitely has the look, the soft features, big doe eyes, and can pass for 18.

Actually, when I saw who was being considered, she was my first choice visually, as I personally felt that visually she definitely could have been Rapunzel 100%. However, as fans have pointed out, we have never heard her sing, and that was the main reservation with her potential portrayal, that we might not be getting great singing. Which made her a polarizing choice for fans.

Sarah Catherine Hook

Status: Tested

Sarah Catherine Hook had allegedly tested for the role, and rumors came out that she and Milo (Flynn) were the official leads of the film, which shocked many people as they believed it was true.

I was surprised when I saw so many news outlets claiming this was true, and personally, I do not see her as Rapunzel. She does not look like she can believably pass as 18 and doesn't seem to have the soft, doe-eyed look.

In time, the rumor proved to be false.

Freya Skye

Status: Tested

Freya Skye of "Zombies 4" fame had allegedly tested for the Rapunzel character. Many fans liked the idea of her being Rapunzel, as she has a great voice, looks young, and with softer makeup definitely looks like Disney Rapunzel. However, one issue was that Milo was an extremely popular choice for the role, and many fans were uncomfortable with the idea of both of them playing opposite each other considering that, as of today's date, Freya is 16 and Milo is 24, which, having them act opposite each other knowing that, would just be wrong.

Many fans felt it had to be either/or: if Milo is Flynn, Freya can't be Rapunzel. If Freya is Rapunzel, Milo can't be Flynn. And to be honest, I agree. I think Freya would have been a wonderful Rapunzel. But due to her age, it would be uncomfortable and ethically wrong to have her kiss adults significantly older than her.

Olivia Mai Barrett

Status: Tested

Olivia Mai Barrett had allegedly tested for the part, and she definitely has the soft features and could pass for 18, so I could perhaps see her as Rapunzel, but I do think there are others who suit the character a bit better.

Photo From Teagan Croft's Instagram

Teagan Croft

Status... WINNER

Teagan Croft would be the one who would end up winning the role of the iconic Disney character Rapunzel.

I personally thought that this was a good casting. She was not my first choice, but I do not think she is a bad choice at all. In my personal opinion, she looks like she can pass as 18, has softer features, and has a similar vibe to Rapunzel, so I'm not mad at her casting at all.
As we all know, Milo Manheim, the star of "Zombies," would be cast as Flynn.

And as for other characters, Scarlett Johansson opted out of the Mother Gothel role, which I'm happy about because I personally believed she looked too young to play that character. So for now, we don't have one cast yet, and the rest of the cast has not yet been announced.

But you didn't think the casting drama ended there, did you?

Cast Reception

-By Fatma

Photo By Megan Clark

Milo's Casting

For years, fans have fancasted actors for the Tangled Live Action with a major fancast being Milo Manheim and Avantika Vandanapu. Following the casting announcement, some fans were excited to have Milo as Flynn Rider, mostly due to the fact he had a strong resemblance to Flynn Rider.

Many fans speculated several reasons as to why Avantika was not casted, with a major reason being her stance on the Palestine-Israel conflict. Milo Melheim has stated in an interview that he would love to co-star with Avantika (and anyone else for that matter) in the Tangled live action. Despite being a popular pick for Rapanzul, Disney decided against it due to a few reasons, the main one being they don't want to hurt their pockets. ESPECIALLY

After the major flop on the Snow White live action. Many people were against a POC being casted for Tangled and wanted Disney to follow the popular animated film. If Disney repeated the same "mistake" they would suffer another loss of profit. Another major reason that fans speculate is her strong support for Palestine and as we know, openly advocating for Palestine lowers chances of being a lead in a popular or highly anticipated film.

Despite his popularity, many fans are in an uproar over the casting of Milo Manheim. In response to the attack on October 7th, Milo shared a post on Instagram stating

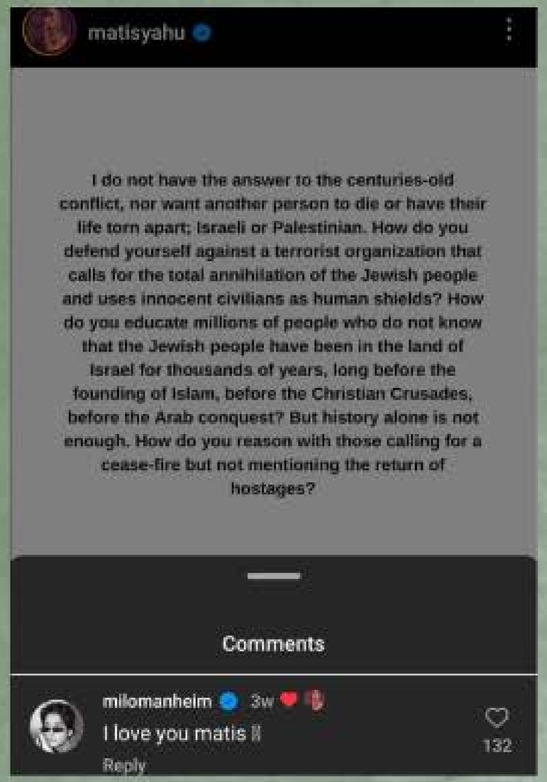
"My heart goes out to everyone affected by the attacks in Israel."

-Milo Manheim

Despite the ongoing genocide in Palestine, he has not shared anything in response to the atrocities being done in Gaza, which if you ask me is very telling of where he stands. Many fans also pointed out his connection to the musician Matisyahu who has openly advocated and publicly stated his support for Zionism. Not to mention, Manheim has also liked and commented on many pro-Isreal and Zionistic posts on social media.

Following the casting announcements, backlash grew louder with many fans saying That Milo goes against the "spirit of Flynn Rider," a character who is anti-establishment and more aligned with equality and dare I say ACTUALLY supporting Palestine. Reactions included comments like, "we will NOT be watching," "Flynn Rider would NEVER," and "Not our Flynn thank you."

Booo!


matisyahu
I do not have the answer to the centuries-old conflict, nor want another person to die or have their life torn apart; Israeli or Palestinian. How do you defend yourself against a terrorist organization that calls for the total annihilation of the Jewish people and uses innocent civilians as human shields? How do you educate millions of people who do not know that the Jewish people have been in the land of Israel for thousands of years, long before the founding of Islam, before the Christian Crusades, before the Arab conquest? But history alone is not enough. How do you reason with those calling for a cease-fire but not mentioning the return of hostages?
Comments
milomanheim 3w
I love you matis 🕯
Reply
132

One viral post brought up a similar controversy on Disney's Snow White which contributed to its failure at the box office. It said, "Disney really didn't learn a thing from the Snow White mess. They hired Zionist Gal Gadot and the movie flopped hard. Now they're bringing in Zionist Milo Manheim for Tangled. Like... are they serious? So dumb. Keep boycotting this project." Fans (including me) strongly agreed and since then the hashtag #BoycottTangled has been born.

Cast Reception

-By Fatma

Teagan's Casting

Teagan's casting as Rapunzel in the Tangled live-action sparked an immediate and highly polarized response online. On one hand, many fans welcomed her casting, praising her acting background, vocal ability, and suitability for the role. Supporters argued that Teagan visually aligns with the animated Rapunzel and felt her performance style matched Rapunzel's vibe. Some fans also expressed relief that Disney appeared to be returning to a more faithful adaptation of the original film after recent live-action Remakes (like The Little Mermaid and Snow White) that took heavier creative liberties.

However, criticism quickly emerged from multiple directions. One of the most common complaints was that Teagan "looks too old" to portray Rapunzel, despite Rapunzel being written as 18-21. Critics argued that Disney continues to age up its heroines in live-action adaptations, which they feel changes the innocence and coming-of-age themes that are common in the animated films compared to live actions such as Tangled. Others pointed out the double standard often applied ONLY to female actors compared to their male counterparts.

Another major point of criticism came from fans who were disappointed that Disney did not continue its recent trend of casting women of color in traditionally white animated roles. After years of increased advocacy for inclusive representation, many viewers felt Teagan's casting symbolized a step backward. Especially with the strong fan support for Avantika Vandanapu who say that the storyline fits South Asian girls the most with protective parents and other parallels. This frustration was intensified by the belief that Disney intentionally avoided casting a woman of color in order to prevent backlash and financial loss, especially following controversies surrounding other live-action remakes.

Photo By Disney

The backlash surrounding Teagan's casting took a darker turn when white supremacist and far-right groups were observed celebrating her selection. These groups openly praised Disney for "returning to the original" and avoiding what they referred to as "forced diversity." Many fans found this deeply disturbing, arguing that regardless of Teagan's individual talent, the nature of this support exposed how casting decisions can be weaponized by extremist ideologies. Several viewers emphasized that this reaction alone made the situation uncomfortable.

Additional backlash arose when fans noticed Teagan liking a social media post suggesting that Sabrina Carpenter was overlooked for the lead because she was considered "too pretty for the role." Some interpreted it as shade or poor timing amid the already heated casting debate. While without context this may not seem as big of a deal, the action was amplified by an audience already scrutinizing every move associated with the movie. Critics argued that it reflected a lack of awareness, while defenders dismissed it as harmless and overanalyzed.

the girl who books Rapunzel after casting said Sabrina Carpenter was "too pretty for the role"
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tiffanydi0n
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Photo By Don Arnold

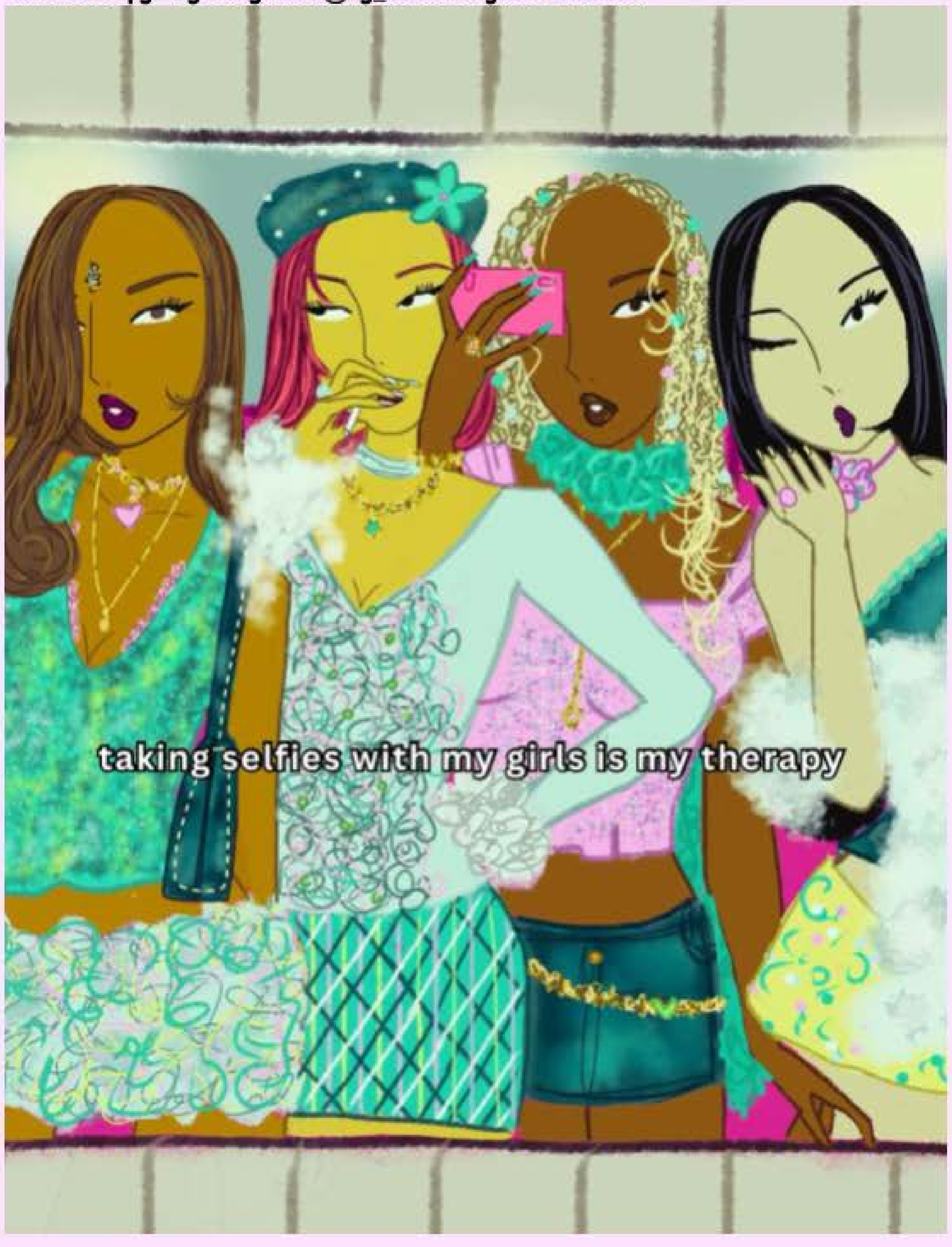
Photo By Rebecca Sapp

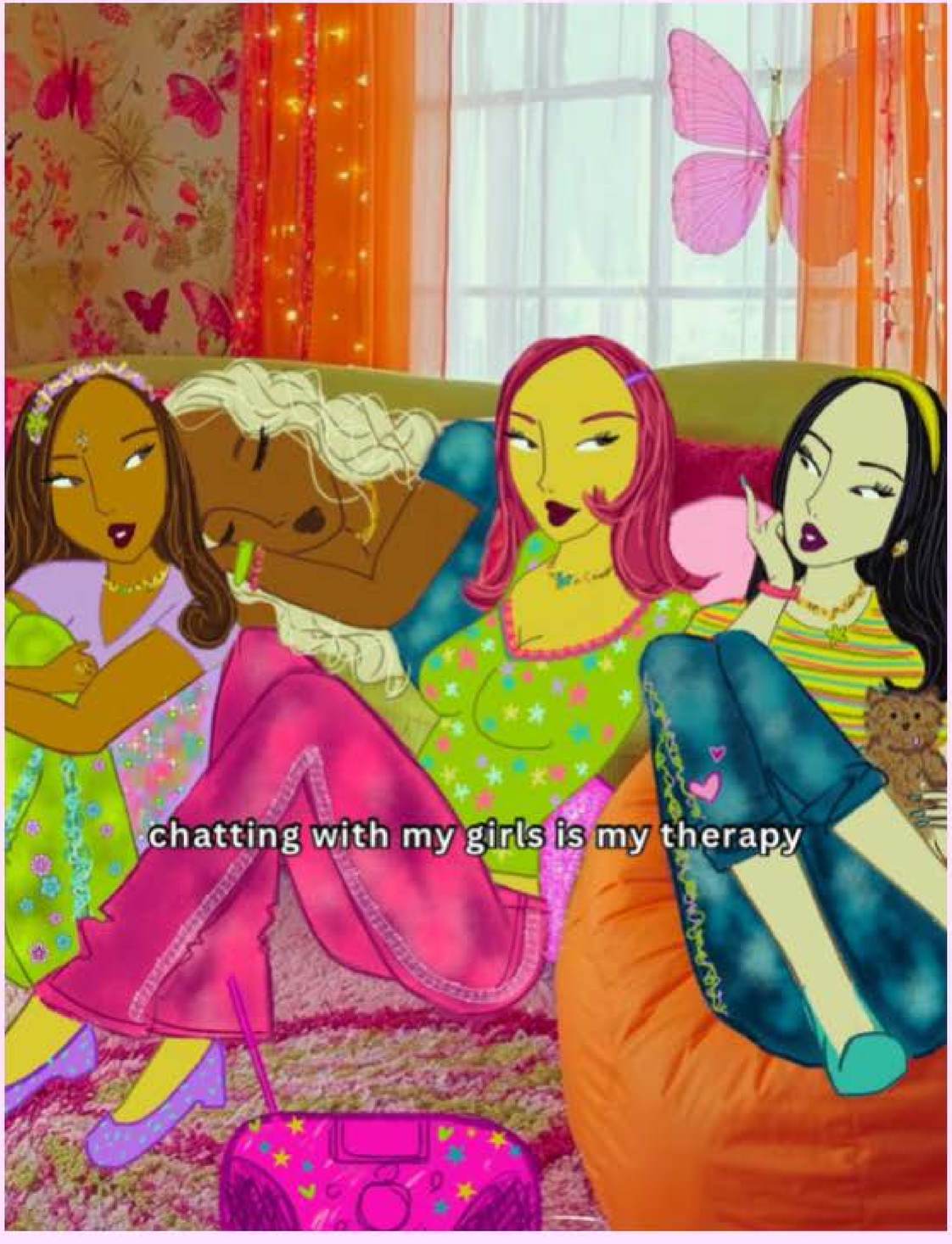
So Diva!

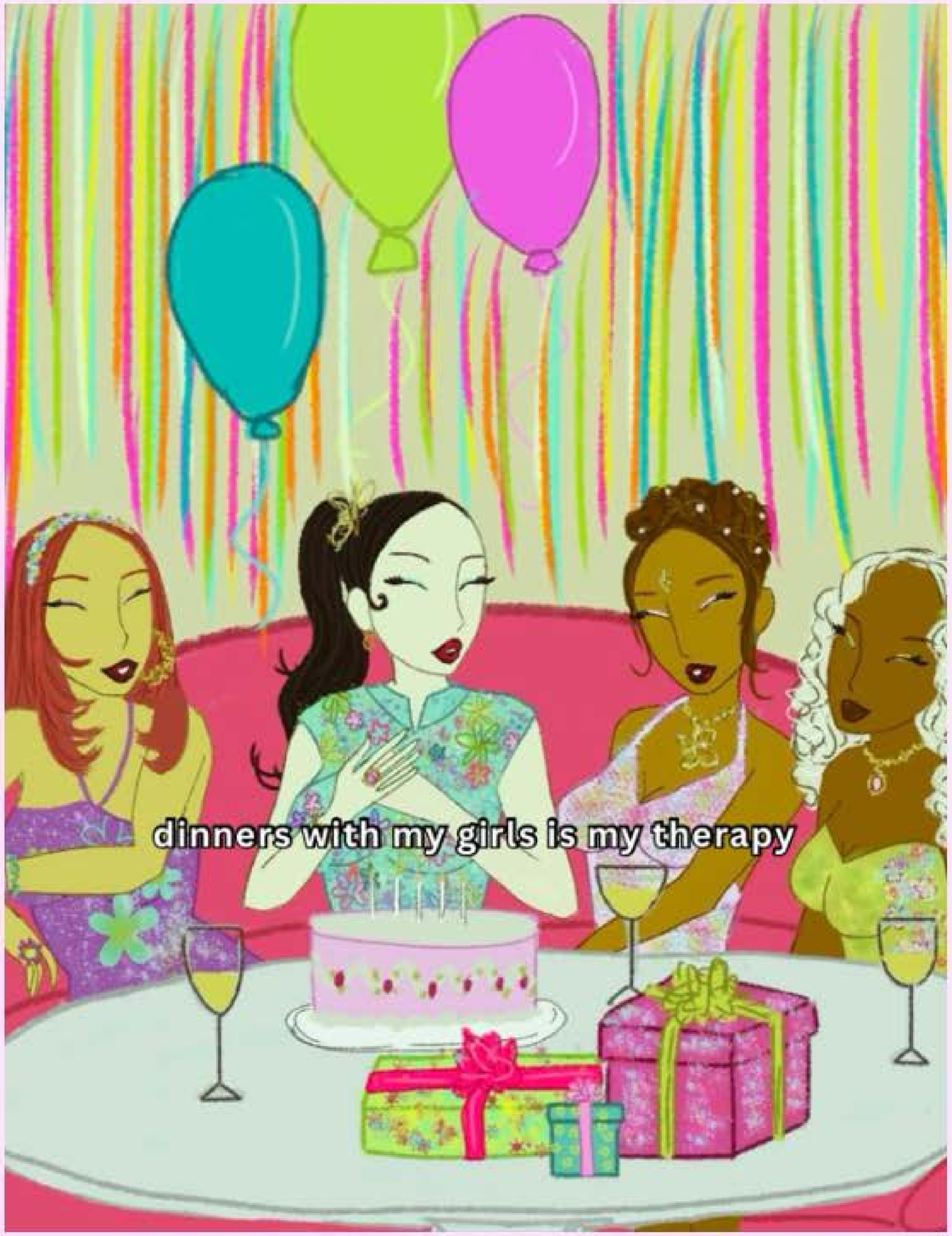
Presents...

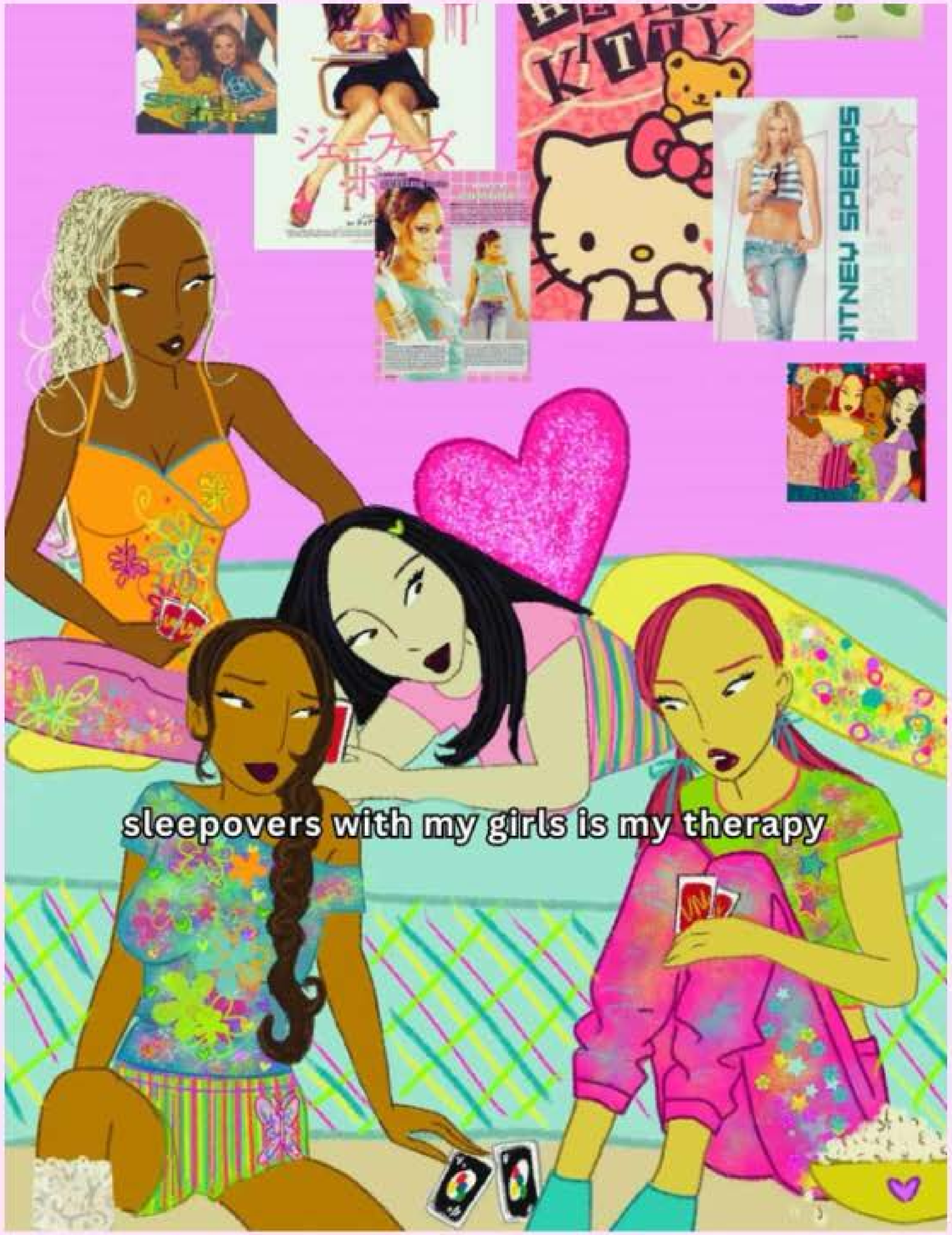
The Diva! Strip

"Girl Therapy" By Nelly AKA @by_zenaihodges on Tikatok

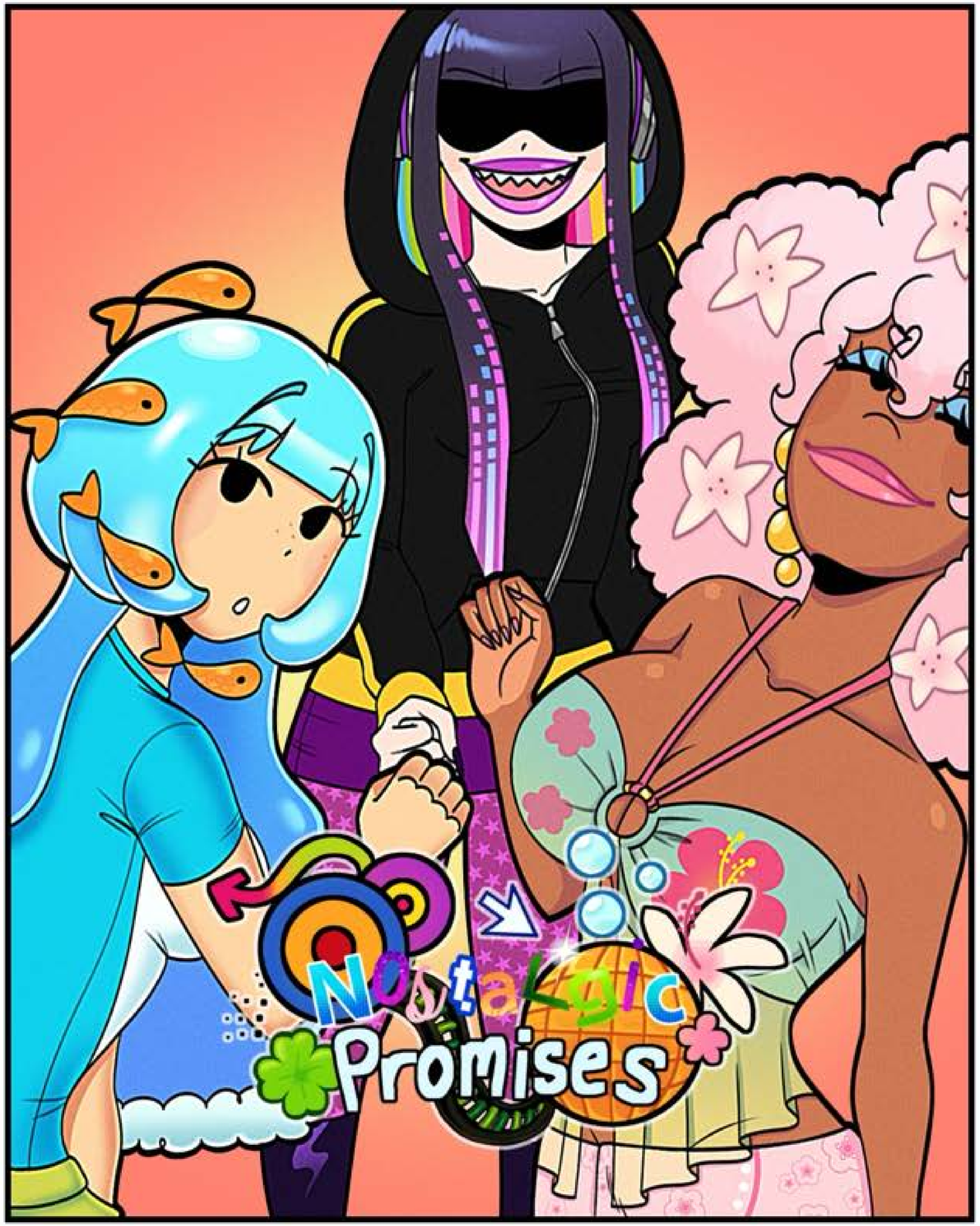




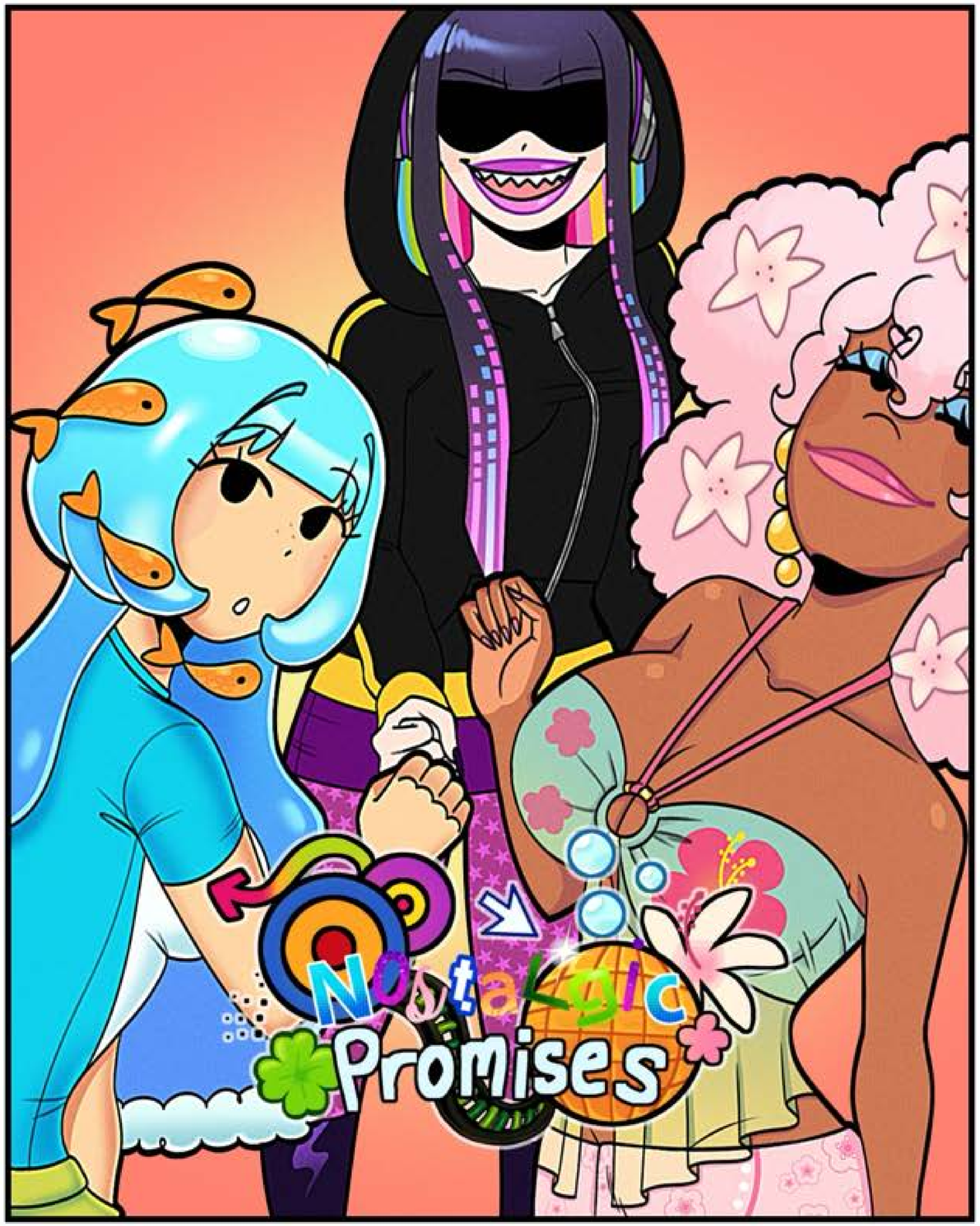

dinners with my girls is my therapy


sleepovers with my girls is my therapy
BRITNEY SPEARS

Rock, Paper, Scissors!!



SCISSORS!!!
I WIN!!!
I WIN
I WIN!!
close
=5/5 WINS
drip
NOW YOU GUYS OWE ME 20 POPSICLE PACKS,EACH!!
MAXX, PLEASE QUIT BLOATING OR ELSE ABI'S GONNA CAUSE A FLOOD...


Nostalgic
Promises

Credits!

Maryam
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Wrote -MonsterVerze Release, ChatDOLL Release, Diva News - Tangled Live Action

Fatma
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